

with the Government of Guam on the base closure transition. Now is a good time for the administration to exert an effort to complete the discussions on the Guam Commonwealth. And now is a good time for Congress to consider how it is going to deal with the small insular territories as it considers a political status process for Puerto Rico.

As I said earlier, any discussion of political status and the territories is good. Any discussion of Okinawa and the Japanese bases has to be good for Guam too. I hope that those in the White House and the Pentagon who are supposed to be paying attention to these issues are making the right connections between all these issues. I would hope so, because otherwise, it would seem to us that these Federal policies are being made in a very short-sighted manner.

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NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT ON LOBBY REFORM AND GIFT BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today is the time for this House to act on lobby reform and a gift ban for Members of this House. It is not only today that I have offered those remarks, because today we take up the legislative branch appropriations bill, but it, in fact, was the first day of this session that many of us urged the House to reform itself in an attempt to pass lobby and gift ban reform on January 4 from this very spot, and yet the next day, Speaker NEWT GINGRICH had this to say of the effort. He described it as "an astonishingly narrow and self-destructive act."

With that background, we proceeded once again in the spring to attempt to reform this House and the way it handles itself both with regard to lobbies and with regard to gift bans. The Speaker responded again in a preadjournment news conference, saying, "We have not had the mental energy and the time this summer to do anything about this issue of ethics and gift ban and lobby reform."

Apparently the Speaker has still not been able to muster the mental energy. Apparently he still suffers from great mental fatigue, because although the Senate referred to this Speaker's podium on July 26 a lobby reform act, reforming and rewriting the legislation that had not been significantly reformed since the year of my birth, 1946, that bill has been sitting and is sitting at this very moment at the Speaker's rostrum from July 26 to today, July, August, September, October.

That is, indeed, super fatigue, I suppose. I would not think that it takes a considerable amount of mental energy to simply be able to go through the act of referring the bill to a committee so that it could be studied. But Speaker GINGRICH, perhaps referring back to his suggestion that reform was a self-destructive act, has not been able to muster the energy to even refer the bill.

It is little wonder then that Gerald Seib, writing in the Wall Street Journal this past month, had this to say, "The new Republican leaders of Congress have flat out blown it this year in one area, cleaning up the political system." Then he refers to Senator JOHN MCCAIN, who played such a significant role in the 98 to zero victory for lobby and gift-ban reform over in the U.S. Senate, where there is still a little bipartisanship when it comes to cleaning up the place. He says the signals that the House will not get to the gift ban this year makes Senator MCCAIN worry that his Republican House colleagues may have developed a tin ear that will prevent them from making reforms that are in their own political interest in the long run. "I detect over there a kind of heady environment that maybe is not as sensitive to public opinion as you would think."

Indeed, that is what has happened here, because our Republican colleagues, rather than join us in a bipartisan effort to clean up this House when they had an opportunity to do that on January 4, voted "no" against gift-ban reform. When they had an opportunity to do that on June 20, on a vote on this floor, they voted "no" against gift-ban reform of the very type of character that their colleagues in the Senate would vote to approve unanimously only 1 week later. On June 22, a third time, they voted "no" when the issue was gift-ban and lobby reform, and then on September 6, you would think after Speaker GINGRICH and his colleagues had had significant time to rest up over the August recess, no, they voted "no" consistently again one more time against gift-ban and lobby reform.

So it was that last Wednesday, on October 25, many of us thought there would finally be an opportunity to address this issue once again, when the legislative branch appropriations was here on the floor of the House. But instead, the Republican leadership jerked that bill off the floor, afraid that real reform might occur. What did we get instead of an opportunity to vote on the issue of gift-ban and lobby reform? We got a press conference on Friday which represented simply more hem, hedge, and haw when it came to reforming this House, the possibility that there might be action by November 16, but the suggestion that they did not want to adopt what the Senate had done on a bipartisan basis; they wanted to strengthen the bill.

How do they proposed to strengthen it? Well, they are considering an exemption for the golf caucus. That is

their form of strengthening. I suggest that strengthening by exemption is the equivalent to the leadership by example we have seen when it comes to cleaning up this House. We have had, instead, the same timekeeper on that kind of reform that the House Ethics Committee has used with reference to the ethical complaints against the Speaker: Wait, wait, wait.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EVERETT] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

All of us, wherever we are, join together in our petitions and place before You, O God, that which burdens our hearts or gladdens our souls. As you have promised to hear our words and heed our voices, we make known in our prayers that which encourages us or troubles us, those feelings that we withhold from all else. We pray, O God, that You would so free us by Your grace and by Your pardon that we will reflect Your light and serve our neighbor and our Nation with a renewed commitment to justice for every person. For all Your good gifts and for the marvel and majesty of each new day, we offer these words of petition and thanksgiving. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BALLENGER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.